

Voted, that the First Vice President be placed on that Committee in lieu of the President, deceased.

Dr. Gay announced the donation, by Francis Alger, Esq. of two hundred specimens of Minerals, to be selected from his Cabinet by the Curator of Mineralogy.

April 21, 1847.

Dr. Cabot in the Chair.

Dr. Gould read descriptions of the following species of *Melania*, from the Collection of the Exploring Expedition.

MELANIA CYBELE. Testa ovata, turrata, crassa, fuliginosa, epidermide velutinâ induta; spira ad apicem valdè erosa, anfr. superstit. ad 3 planulatis, supernè tabulatis, et pinnis curtis acutis arrectis ordinatim dispositis, coronatis: apertura angusta, elongato-ovalis, posticè angulata; intus livida. Long. 1, lat. $\frac{5}{8}$ poll. *Hab.* Feejees, Navigators, &c.

Probably confounded with *M. amarula*. That shell is lighter colored, shorter, smoother and destitute of the velvety epidermis: the spines are less numerous, longer and sharper and stand out somewhat from a vertical position: in this species they resemble mural battlements.

MELANIA TETRICA. Testa oblonga, turrata, ponderosa, fusca, liris paucis cincta: spira truncata, anfr. superstitibus 3-4 convexiusculis, posticè sub-angulatis et spinis validis acutis 5 ad basim decurrentibus armatis, interdum muticis: sutura profunda: apertura arcuè elliptica; intus livida. Long. $1\frac{1}{4}$, lat. $\frac{5}{8}$ poll. *Hab.* Feejee Islands.

More slender than the preceding, and with more convex whorls. It has nearly the same form as *M. bellicosa*, Hinds, but is larger and has fewer spines. It is especially distinguished by its few stout spines directed outwards.

MELANIA TERPSICHORE. Testa elongato-turrata, solidula, olivacea, plagis flexuosis fuscis picta, longitudinaliter creberrimè

plicata, et liris elevatis versus basim crescentibus cincta : spira elevata, ad apicem erosa, anfr. 4 posticè subangulatis : apertura angusta, elliptica, testæ longitudinis trientem adequans ; intus cœrulescens. Long. 1, lat. $\frac{2}{3}$ poll. *Hab.* Feejee and Samoa Islands.

Of the same group as the preceding, but more slender, and remarkable for the lyrate appearance produced by its numerous folds, decussated by revolving lines, one of which, more conspicuous than the rest, forms a sort of beaded angle.

MELANIA COROLLA. Testa parva, ovato-conica, fusca : spira acuta, anfr. ad 6 ventricosis, posticè constrictis, angulo submedi-ano aculeos numerosos ordinatim radiantes gerente, instructis ; suturâ haud impressâ : apertura rotundata ; labiis continuis. Lat. $\frac{2}{10}$, alt. $\frac{3}{10}$ poll. *Hab.* Banks' Peninsula, New Zealand.

This beautiful little shell, somewhat resembling *M. spinulosa*, is readily recognized by its coronets of numerous small radiating prickles on the angles of the whorls.

MELANIA LUTOSA. Testa crassa, elongato-turrita, striis tenuibus cincta, fusco-castanea, et crustâ lævi, lutosâ, crassâ, rubiginosâ, omnino obtecta : spira anfr. 7 superstitibus convexis ; suturâ profundâ : apertura obovata, vix effusa, peristomate rufo limbato ; fauce livido : operculum crassum, osseum, subspirale. Lat. $\frac{1}{2}$, alt. $1\frac{3}{4}$ poll. *Hab.* Upolu.

This simple and graceful shell, resembling in form *M. Virginia* or *M. decollata*, is easily distinguished by the dark brown margin of the aperture. It is remarkable for the thick crust of mud with which it is covered, and which is so smooth and brown externally, as to seem like the natural surface of the shell. A glance at the tip reveals its real nature.

MELANIA CORPOROSA. Testa subulato-conica, decollata, nitida, olivaceo-castanea, juxta suturam cerina, striis plerumque minimis decussata : spira anfr. ad 5 convexiusculis ; suturâ profundâ et marginatâ : apertura angusta, pyriformis, anticè vix producta ; intus livida ; columellâ albidâ. Long. $1\frac{1}{2}$, lat. $\frac{1}{2}$ poll. *Hab.* Taheiti.

Very nearly the same shape as *M. lutosâ*, but is distinguished by its clean, shining, minutely reticulated surface, its pale sutural region, and its narrower aperture, destitute of the deep brown limbus.

MELANIA SCIPIO. Testa magna, solida, lanceolata, truncata, picea, sursum rufescens et flammulis longitudinalibus fuscis magis ac magis picta (juvenibus valdè subulatis et epidermide tomentoso quoque indutis) creberrimè et minutissimè decussato-striata : spira anfr. superstitibus 4-5 (integris 12-15) planulatis, obliquis ; suturâ impressâ et marginatâ : apertura triangularis, valdè effusa, posticè sub-caniculata ; regione columellari tumido ; columellâ planulatâ, acutâ, albâ : intus plumbea. Long. $1\frac{1}{2}$, (integer 3) lat. $\frac{1}{2}$ poll. *Hab.* Samoa and Feejee Islands.

About the size and form of *M. funiculus*, Quoy, but has a longer and more acute aperture. *M. aspirans*, Hinds, is still larger and more solid, less convex whorls, a darker and less variegated surface. Besides its dark pitchy color changing towards the tip to flammulated fawn color covered by a velvety epidermis, it may be known by its minute, close set revolving lines.

MELANIA VAINAFA. Testa elongato-conica, lævis, badia (junioribus herbaceis et lineolis flexuosis fuscis pictis) : spira decollata, anfr. 4-5 superstitibus, subplanulatis, ultimo plerumque striis distantibus cincto ; suturâ marginatâ : apertura ovata, testæ quadrantem æquans. Long. $\frac{7}{8}$, lat. $\frac{3}{10}$ poll. *Hab.* Falls of Vainafa, Upolu.

It has the form and general color of small, smooth specimens of *M. Virginica*, but the whorls are more flattened, and the front of the aperture is more rounded.

MELANIA SCITULA. Testa gracilis, elongato-conica, decollata, epidermide piceo induta : spira anfr. superstitibus ad 5 valdè convexis, supernis longitudinaliter plicatis, infernis spiraliter liratis, præcipuè juxta suturam et ad basim : apertura obovata, quadrantem testæ haud aquans, anticè aliquanto producta ; fauce livido. Long. $\frac{7}{8}$, lat. $\frac{1}{4}$ poll. *Hab.* Upolu.

It has the form and size of *M. abjecta*, Hald., from Alabama, also of *M. truncatula*, Lam. It is more robust, paler, and the folds are more prominent and on more whorls than in *M. plicata*, Lea.

MELANIA SILICULA. Testa parva, gracilis, sub-cylindrica, truncata, epidermide fusco-castaneo induta : spira anfr. ad 4 superstitibus, rotundatis, spiraliter liratis, supernis longitudinaliter pli-

catis; ultimo fusco-zonato; suturâ benè impressâ; apertura rotundato-ovata, anticè vix producta; fauce subviolaceo. Long. $\frac{1}{2}$, lat. $\frac{1}{5}$ poll. *Hab.* Nisqually, Oregon.

Very much like the preceding, but considerably smaller, more cylindrical, the whorls more plaited, and a band on the basal one. It resembles *M. proxima*, Say, which is less cylindrical and without folds.

MELANIA BULBOSA. Testa parva, conico-oblonga, nitida, decollata, fusco-viridis: spira anfr. superstitibus 2-3 rotundis; suturâ profundâ: apertura ovato-rotundata, vix effusa. Long. $\frac{1}{2}$, lat. $\frac{9}{16}$ poll. *Hab.* Columbia River.

The whorls are very cylindrical, so as to appear like a succession of bulbs. It is much like *M. perfusca*, Anthony; but in that the whorls slope gently to the suture. A broken specimen shows that it often attains a considerable size.

MELANIA FURFUROSA. Testa turrita, ovato-pyramidata, tenuis, scabriuscula, dilutè fulva, et propè suturam fusco maculata, striis arcuatis incrementalibus et striis volventibus tenuissimis decussata: spira integra, anfr. 7 rotundatis, confertis, supernè sub-tabulatis; ultimo magno, ventricoso; supernis obliquè plicatis: apertura lunata, ad columellam effusa. Long. $\frac{3}{4}$, lat. $\frac{3}{8}$ poll. *Hab.* Manila.

Allied to *M. scabra*, which is more elongated, and its whorls much less cylindrical, its striæ coarse and distant, and crowned with spino-tubercles.

MELANOPSIS ZELANDICA. Testa solida, ovato-conica, nitida, olivacea, fusco-trifasciata: spira conica, brevis, acuta; anfr. 3, supernis planulatis et ad suturam confluentibus; ultimo magno, posticè planulato, anticè ventricoso: apertura elliptica, cœrucens, rufo-fasciata, posticè in canalem obducta; labro acuto: columella valdè arcuata et excavata, posticè callo tuberculoso copioso instructa. Long. $\frac{9}{10}$, lat. $\frac{9}{16}$ poll. - *Hab.* New Zealand.

Compared with *M. prærosa*, Lin., it is more plump, has but 3 instead of 6 or 7 whorls, the aperture proportionally longer: the columella remarkably arched; and the surface and aperture are banded with dark chestnut.